

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06126 231107Z

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9012

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6126

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (N.J. JONES AND G.W. ASHWORTH)

SUBJ: STAFFDEL JONES/ASHWORTH

REF : (A) STATE 228193; (B) STATE 230157;

(C) STATE 231513 (NOTAL)

1. WE WELCOME VISIT OF STAFFDEL TO SAUDI ARABIA. MESSRS. JONES AND ASHWORTH WILL BE ARRIVING IN SAUDI ARABIA AT A TIME OF CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY IN THE POLITICAL-MILITARY FIELD. FOR INSTANCE, THE SECURITY COMMISSION SPECIALIST GROUP WILL THEN BE HOLDING ITS MEETINGS, AND THE SCHEDULE OF CONFIRMED AND POSSIBLE VISITORS INCLUDES ASST. SEC. OF DEFENSE FOR ISA ELLSWORTH AND THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.

2. IN SPITE OF THIS HEAVY VISITOR SCHEDULE -- PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO POLITICAL-MILITARY SUBJECTS -- WE BELIEVE WE CAN ENSURE A USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, PROPOSE TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS BECAUSE (A) THE SAUDI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE WOULD NORMALLY SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE TIED UP COMPLETELY WITH THE SPECIALISTS GROUP'S MEETING, AND (B) THOSE SAUDI OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS WOULD NOT BE VERY USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR STAFFDEL.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT STAFFDEL SHOULD BEGIN ITS VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA WITH A FULL DAY IN DHAHRAN. DHAHRAN IS THE HEAD-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 06126 231107Z

QUARTERS OF THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION AND WE

TENTATIVELY PLAN TO ARRANGE BRIEFINGS THERE ON SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE SAUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAM AND THE PEACE HAWK PROGRAM.

4. WE WOULD THEN PROPOSE THAT STAFFDEL COME DIRECTLY TO JIDDA FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS. US DEFENSE CONTRACTORS WOULD TEND TO BE RESERVED WITH STAFFDEL SINCE THEIR COMPANIES SUBCONTRACTORS OF SAG AND SAUDI SECURITY SENSITIVITY IS GREAT. ACCORDINGLY, WE THINK THIS CAN BE BEST HANDLED AT A SOCIAL AFFAIR AND WILL HAVE STAFFDEL MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF US COMPANIES AT A DINNER IN THEIR HONOR IN JIDDA.

5. WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT STAFFDEL VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD BE SHORTENED BY ONE DAY WITH ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA NOVEMBER 3 INSTEAD OF NOV 2. WE WILL PROVIDE COMPLETE PROPOSED AGENDA IN A DAY OR SO AFTER COMPLETING COORDINATION WITH DHAHRAN.

6. POL COUNSELOR NICHOLAS MURPHY DESIGNATED CONTROL OFFICER. AKINS

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NNN

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